

- Collaborated with several other groups in town to revise and update the Comprehensive Permit Policy
- Met with several affordable housing developers to understand their perspectives on potential projects and express our interest in housing development in town
- Loaned \$10,000 to the Stow Community Housing Corporation for expenses related to the of affordable housing development previously approved by Stow Town Meeting
- Actively engaged in discussions with the local planning group MAGIC regarding joining a regional housing services group of neighboring towns to provide critical housing services
- Applied to the Community Preservation Committee for funds to retain as a consultant a Housing Specialist to assist in implementation of the Housing Production Plan which had been approved and submitted by the Stow Board of Selectmen to the MA Division of Housing and Community Development in 2011.
- Directed the Housing Specialist to review all town-owned undeveloped parcels and identify potential in-fill affordable housing sites,
- Defined and received approval for the process through which town-owned lands might be reassigned to SMAHT custody in order to develop affordable housing
- Received a grant application on which the decision was deferred due to the imminent UMass study of the Gleasondale area

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Jacobs
Michael Kopczynski, Chair
Quince Papanastassiou
Cynthia Perkins

James Salvie, Selectman
Trish Settles
Laura Spear, Vice Chair

OUR HERITAGE

ANCIENT DOCUMENTS COMMITTEE

The Ancient Documents Committee, formed in 1973, is charged with collecting, cataloguing, and preserving Stow town records which date to 1669, housed in the Town Vault in the Town Building. Each year committee members work on specific areas in the extensive collection.

Bob Walrath has completed a computerized inventory of all maps in the collection. Liz Moseley and Bill Byron continue to inventory recent collections of materials given to the town. Liz also continues to update items in the small historical museum in Randall Library. Requests for copies of old photographs are handled by Lew Halprin, and in addition, Lew is starting a collection for the vault of CDs of historical programs for the vault, many of which air on Stow TV.

Dorothy Spaulding is working on completing computerized cemetery records, a project started by Jody Newman a number of years ago. She is assisted by Marilyn Zavorski, volunteer, who also is researching information on headstone carvers. Another volunteer, Rosemary Bawn, is updating information files. Ralph Fuller continues to update newspaper files and to fill speaking engagements on Stow history.

Both Lew Halprin and Ralph Fuller are guest columnists on Stow history in local newspapers. The vault provides background material.

Descendants of the Samuel Gates family from Missouri spent two days researching vital records in the vault, and Jody Newman kindly showed the couple her home on Whitney Rd., the original Samuel Gates house.

The committee continues to be most appreciative of a donation of Vital Records to 1850 of Bolton, Concord, Lancaster, Acton and Sudbury, all given to the town by Emily Beyette, a descendant of the Gleason family.

The committee was greatly saddened by the death of Dorothy MacDonald, committee genealogist for the past 10 years.

Respectfully submitted,

Lew Halprin
Linda Hathaway
Barbara Sipler, chair
Bob Walrath

Bill Byron, Associate
Ralph Fuller, Associate
Liz Moseley, Associate
Dorothy Spaulding, Associate

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Stow Historical Commission continues to sponsor programs through which residents may gain knowledge of the town's history. As part of this effort, in conjunction with the Stow Historical Society, we conducted a tour of the Hillside Cemetery narrated by Skip Warren. With the support of new members we are planning more tours and programs for 2013. We are still promoting a "historic house" plaque program.

The Public Archaeology Survey Team is completing a survey of Stow historical buildings and sites. The cost of this project is being paid by the town from Community Preservation Funds. .

The Stow Musket is now proudly displayed in the Randall Library along with a plaque describing its history.

This year, West School Summer Programs were again conducted under the leadership of Ralph Fuller, Karen Gray and Linda Stokes. The four programs were as follows: Oral History, Native American Culture, Mark Twain and Skills of Our Town. These programs are made possible through a grant from the Stow Cultural Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Cutler
Carolyn Hastings
Patrick Hopkins
Dorothy Spaulding, Chair
Rosemary Bawn, Associate

Ralph Fuller, Associate
Lewis Halprin, Treasurer
Karen Gray, resigned
Leslie Kriebel, resigned
Daisy Dearborn, retired